WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer implemented method comprising:
retrieving an enhanced presence ping bit;
identifying that the enhanced presence ping bit is enabled, wherein the enablement of the enhanced presence ping bit corresponds to an enhanced presence ping mode;
collecting enhanced status information based upon the identification; and
sending the enhanced status information to an access point over a wireless network.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining that a timer is enabled, the timer corresponding to a time at which to send the enhanced status information;
detecting that the enabled timer has expired; and
performing the collecting and the sending in response to the detecting.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a ping request from the access point; and
performing the collecting and the sending in response to receiving the ping request.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the enhanced status information is selected from the group consisting of a total packet number, a signal strength, and a system power state.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving an enhanced presence ping control packet from the access point; and

enabling the enhanced presence ping bit in response to receiving the enhanced presence ping control packet.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the access point is adapted to send the enhanced presence ping control packet in response to receiving an administrator request from an administrator, and wherein the access point is also adapted to provide the collected enhanced status information to the administrator.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the wireless network functions as a shared transmission medium.

8. An information handling system comprising:
one or more processors;

a memory accessible by the processors;

one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the processors;

one or more registers;

one or more timers; and

a enhanced presence ping tool for providing enhanced status information, the enhanced presence ping tool comprising software code effective to:

retrieve an enhanced presence ping bit from one of the registers;

identify that the enhanced presence ping bit is enabled, wherein the enablement of the enhanced presence ping bit corresponds to an enhanced presence ping mode;

collect enhanced status information from one of the nonvolatile storage devices based upon the identification; and

send the enhanced status information to an access point over a wireless network.

9. The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the software code is further effective to:
determine that one of the timers is enabled, the timer corresponding to a time at which to send the enhanced status information;

detect that the enabled timer has expired; and

perform the collecting and the sending in response to the detecting.

10. The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the software code is further effective to:
receive a ping request from the access point; and

perform the collecting and the sending in response to receiving the ping request.

11. The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the enhanced status information is selected from the group consisting of a total packet number, a signal strength, and a system power state.

12. The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the software code is further effective to:

receive an enhanced presence ping control packet from the access point; and

enable the enhanced presence ping bit in response to receiving the enhanced presence ping control packet.

13. The information handling system of claim 12 wherein the access point is adapted to send the enhanced presence ping control packet in response to receiving an administrator request from an administrator, and wherein the access point is also adapted to provide the collected enhanced status information to the administrator.

14. A program product comprising:

computer operable medium having computer program code, the computer program code being effective to:

retrieve an enhanced presence ping bit;

identify that the enhanced presence ping bit is enabled, wherein the enablement of the enhanced presence ping bit corresponds to an enhanced presence ping mode;

collect enhanced status information based upon the identifying; and

send the enhanced status information to an access point over a wireless network.

15. The program product of claim 14 wherein the software code is further effective to:

determine that a timer is enabled, the timer corresponding to a time at which to send the enhanced status information;

detect that the enabled timer has expired; and

perform the collecting and the sending in response to the detecting.

16. The program product of claim 14 wherein the software code is further effective to:
receive a ping request from the access point; and

perform the collecting and the sending in response to receiving the ping request.

17. The program product of claim 14 wherein the enhanced status information is selected from the group consisting of a total packet number, a signal strength, and a system power state.

18. The program product of claim 14 wherein the software code is further effective to:
receive an enhanced presence ping control packet from the access point; and

enable the enhanced presence ping bit in response to receiving the enhanced presence ping control packet.

19. The program product of claim 18 wherein the access point is adapted to send the enhanced presence ping control packet in response to receiving an administrator request from an administrator, and wherein the access point is also adapted to provide

the collected enhanced status information to the administrator.

20. The program product of claim 14 wherein the wireless network functions as a shared transmission medium.